

by parliamentary enactment the possession of estates, and compelled proprietors to bequeath their land solely to their eldest sons. The clergy of the north were equally disaffected. They were the sworn henchmen of the pope and the monks, and wrought up the zeal of their parishioners to fever heat against the despoilers of the monasteries. The general discontent which was thus, from various causes, seething in the northern counties, found a focus in the religious question, which united all classes in hatred of Cromwell's administration. The men of Lincolnshire were equally restive, and here too the religious question ranged the commons under the leadership of the lords and gentlemen as champions of a desecrated Church. Among the demands concerning religion, formulated during the course of the insurrection, were the suppression of heresy, the restoration of the pope's authority and of the suppressed monasteries, the punishment of Cromwell and his minions as the subverters of the laws of the realm and the patrons of heretics, the legitimization of the Princess Mary, the abrogation of all the oppressive laws and penalties enacted by an obsequious Parliament, and the confirmation of the rights and privileges of the Church. To enforce these demands the men of Lincolnshire sprang to arms in October 1536, and flocked in their thousands to Lincoln under the leadership of county gentlemen and fanatic priests. Fortunately for the cause of the royal authority, Henry possessed in this emergency two generals of decision and resource, and the alacrity with which the Duke of Suffolk and Lord Shrewsbury mustered the loyalists of the southern counties overawed the motley horde at Lincoln. Dissension took possession of the councils of the insurgents, self-confidence vanished, and the revolt collapsed in less than a fortnight.

It was, however, but the prelude to another and more menacing rising on the north side of the Humber. Before Suffolk and Shrewsbury had cowed the men of Lincoln, the men of York and the north were swarming in the same cause around the banner of Robert Aske, Lords D'Arcy, Lumley, Scrope, and other northern magnates. In a few days Aske had concentrated thirty thousand well-equipped men at Don-caster, wherewith to force a passage in the face of the small royal army under the Duke of Norfolk and Lord Shrewsbury,